



ALABAMA  
citizen★corps

# Corps Connection

A Monthly Publication for Alabama Citizen Corps Councils, their Partners and Affiliates

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**December 2006**

Alabama Citizen Corps is a program of the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives.

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Bob Riley, Governor

Sydney Hoffman, Executive Director

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## *The Gift of Preparedness*



### **Disasters Do Not Discriminate**



From a house fire to a hurricane or even a terrorist act, disasters can strike anyone, anytime, anywhere.

This Christmas season, show your family and friends how much you care by giving the *Gift of Preparedness*.

Take a little time out of your busy shopping schedule to put together a Three Day Kit for someone you love. It can make a big difference.

Inside this Special Christmas Edition, you will find many other helpful hints and ideas about what you can do to help keep your loved ones safe.

### **Alabama, are YOU ready?**

For more information, please go to:  
[www.ReadyAlabama.org](http://www.ReadyAlabama.org).



**BE INFORMED**



**BE INVOLVED**



**BE READY**

The *Gift of Preparedness* is a gift that will never go out of style. Show your family and friends you care about their safety and well-being by providing them with these gifts.

Below are some ideas for gifts. The lists are meant to serve as a guide. While these gifts may not be on their wish lists, they will be truly appreciated in an emergency or disaster.

Simply print out this page and cut out the list. Keep it in your wallet for quick inspiration and shopping!



### Stocking Stuffers

- ◆ Flashlights
- ◆ Batteries
- ◆ Granola bars
- ◆ Laminated emergency contact cards
- ◆ Travel medication (e.g., over the counter pain relievers)
- ◆ \*Travel size toiletries
- ◆ \*Matches/lighters
- ◆ \*Candles

\* Not recommended for children.



### Gifts for Children

- ◆ Head lamps
- ◆ Two-Way Radios

*Below are great items for the 3-day kit to keep children occupied. Specific books and activity materials can be found through your local EMA:*

- ◆ Travel games
- ◆ Reading books
- ◆ Coloring books
- ◆ Crayons



### Home 3-Day Kit

- ◆ Waterproof container for documents
- ◆ Hygiene kit
- ◆ Battery operated radio
- ◆ Flashlight with extra batteries
- ◆ Regional maps
- ◆ Rain gear
- ◆ Gas wrench
- ◆ Waterproof bag or container for 3-day kit



### Car 3-Day Kit

- ◆ Blankets
- ◆ Road side repair kit
- ◆ Jumper cables
- ◆ Motor oil
- ◆ Antifreeze
- ◆ Gasoline
- ◆ Spare tire
- ◆ Flares
- ◆ Water

# **SEE YOU THERE!**



**2006 Annual Conference**

***Citizen Preparedness:  
Building Resistant and Resilient Communities***

**December 13 & 14, 2006**

**Grand Hotel Marriott Resort  
Point Clear, Alabama**

**For more information, please visit our website at:  
[www.ServeAlabama.gov](http://www.ServeAlabama.gov)**

## **Welcome Aboard**



## **VISTA Disaster Response and Recovery Team**

The Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives (GFBCI) is pleased to introduce the newest additions to the AmeriCorps\*VISTA team. Each of these new members will serve for a year with the GFBCI in projects related to the state's long-term recovery from Hurricane Katrina. Jariel Rendell, from Nebraska and Ginger Norling, from New York, will assist in the formation of the state's policy plans to end chronic homelessness.

Outreach to Alabama's faith-based groups, active in disaster preparedness and response, will continue as Annie Kirkpatrick, of Massachusetts, and Jon Gress, of Iowa, manage the Alabama Interfaith Disaster Network.

Finally, Kelly Dempsey will join Ruth Smith and Jamey Lowdermilk in supporting the local initiatives of Citizen Corps Councils.

You are sure to cross paths with at least one or two of the new volunteers at your next meeting or conference, so please be sure to introduce yourself as they make their transitions. And to the new team, welcome to the great state of Alabama!

AmeriCorps is one of the initiatives under the USA Freedom Corps umbrella. You can find more information about the programs at [www.americorps.org](http://www.americorps.org) or visit [www.usafreedomcorps.org](http://www.usafreedomcorps.org) to learn more about other volunteer programs across the country.



Welcome Annie, Jon, Ginger, Kelly and Jariel!

## December Tip of the Month



With all the different causes to celebrate this season, take extra caution while driving. Extreme weather conditions and excessive traffic can make road travel especially dangerous during the holidays.

Christmas lights brighten homes, gardens, and walkways, but make sure you and your family are aware of how to operate them safely. Children are particularly vulnerable to dangerous electrical accidents while playing with Christmas lights outside. Be sure your family and friends know proper safety etiquette: turn off Christmas lights in your house when you leave the room; don't use electrical outlets near a water source; and always have an emergency evacuation plan.

## Upcoming Events



2006 SKYWARN Recognition Day - NWS Birmingham Open House  
December 2, 2006, 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Skywarn Recognition Day was developed by the National Weather Service and the Amateur Radio Relay League to celebrate the contributions that Skywarn Weather Spotters make to public safety. For more information, visit the [National Skywarn Recognition Day](#) website.

### VIPS and Disaster Response - Atlanta, GA

January 25, 2007, 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

Sheraton Midtown Atlanta Hotel - Colony Square, Atlanta, Georgia

Responding to a disaster can strain a law enforcement agency's limited resources. Recent disasters have shown that law enforcement volunteers can play a valuable role in supplementing disaster preparation, response, and recovery efforts. This introductory training provides information about integrating volunteers into a law enforcement agency's plan for natural disasters, public health crises, and other emergencies. For additional information go to

[www.policevolunteers.org/](http://www.policevolunteers.org/).

## **Send Us Your Feedback!**

Have suggestions or ideas for topics? Please send them to Ruth Smith at  
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